

What is Claimed is:

1. A bone mineral density evaluation system for evaluating a bone mineral density from an X-ray picture of a mandible, said X-ray picture containing a picture of a specimen disposed beside a picture of said mandible, said system  
5 comprising:

detecting means for detecting a gradation of said picture of said specimen;

correcting means for correcting the gradation of said X-ray picture so  
10 as to make the result of detection by said detecting means comply with a standard value; and

evaluating means for evaluating the bone mineral density on the basis of the corrected gradation as corrected by said correcting means.

15 2. The bone mineral density evaluation system according to Claim 1 wherein said evaluating means makes evaluation on the basis of the corrected gradation of a particular region of said X-ray picture.

3. The bone mineral density evaluation system according to Claim 2  
20 wherein said particular region includes a region corresponding to an alveolar bone portion around a first premolar.

4. The bone mineral density evaluation system according to any one of Claims 1 through 3 wherein said detecting means detects a gradation of a  
25 particular portion of said picture of said specimen.

5. The bone mineral density evaluation system according to any one of Claims 1 through 3 wherein:

the gradation of said picture of said specimen differs from portion to  
30 portion thereof; and

said detecting means detects one or both of average and deviation of the gradation of said picture of said specimen.

6. The bone mineral density evaluation system according to any one of  
5 Claims 1 through 5, further comprising setting means for setting said standard value.

7. The bone mineral density evaluation system according to any one of  
Claims 1 through 5 wherein said standard value is set based on a result of  
10 detection by said detecting means of a particular X-ray picture.

8. The bone mineral density evaluation system according to any one of  
Claims 1 through 7 wherein said evaluating means includes display means for  
displaying said corrected gradation in the form of histogram.

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9. The bone mineral density evaluation system according to any one of  
Claims 1 through 8 wherein said evaluating means includes judging means for  
judging said bone mineral density on the basis of said corrected gradation.

20 10. The bone mineral density evaluation system according to any one of  
Claims 1 through 9, further comprising output means for providing together a  
plurality of evaluation results provided by said evaluation means for respective  
ones of a plurality of X-ray pictures.

25 11. A bone mineral density evaluation method for evaluating a bone mineral  
density from an X-ray picture of a mandible, said X-ray picture containing a  
picture of a specimen disposed beside a picture of said mandible, said method  
comprising the steps of:

detecting a gradation of said picture of said specimen;

30 correcting the gradation of said X-ray picture so as to make the result of

detection by said detecting means comply with a standard value; and  
evaluating the bone mineral density on the basis of the corrected  
gradation as corrected in said correcting step.